

Executive Registry  
3-5/86

8 December 1952

*encl*  
His Grace  
The Right Reverend Jonah  
Bishop of Washington  
1763 Church Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

My dear Bishop Jonah:

Your letter of October 27th inviting me to become a member of the National Advisory Council sponsoring the erection of a new Russian Orthodox Church in Washington reached me upon my return from Europe. I am very appreciative of this invitation but during the continuance of my present official connection with the Government I am not in a position to accept it. You do have however my sincere good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

W. ALLEN D. BIA

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Russian Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas of Washington D. C., Inc.  
1768 Church Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

HIS EMINENCE  
THE MOST REVEREND  
LEONTY  
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK  
METROPOLITAN OF THE RUSSIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH OF  
NORTH AMERICA

TELEPHONE DECATUR 2-0571

HIS GRACE  
THE RIGHT REVEREND  
JONAH  
BISHOP OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 29, 1952

Mr. Allan W. Dulles,  
48 Wall St.,  
New York 5, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Dulles:

More than 150 years have elapsed since the Russian Orthodox Church was first established on the North American continent, as a mission in Alaska. Since then, as immigration has grown, the number of parishes has increased to more than 300 in the United States and Canada; and the total number of parishioners to approximately one-half million, if we include children.

The rapid advance of militant atheism gives many people in this country grave concern. Christian leaders, with statesman-like outlook, see in the Russian Orthodox Church in America a logical source from which to draw recruits to spearhead the spiritual counter-attack among Slavic peoples whenever and wherever such work can be organized. It is of the highest importance that the Russian Orthodox Church in America gain sufficient strength for the sacred mission ahead.

The various Russian Orthodox parishes in America have suitable edifices for worship, with one exception. That exception is the growing parish in our nation's capital. All other large branches of the Christian faith are represented in Washington, some with noteworthy edifices. Even the followers of Mohammed are now busy completing a magnificent marble mosque on Massachusetts Avenue.

Members of the Russian Orthodox faith in Washington have decided to erect a new church which will serve as a place of worship for themselves and for all eastern Orthodox communicants, both resident and transient. It will also be a national memorial to the American heroes of Orthodox faith who have fallen in the cause of liberty in two world wars and the present conflict. A strategically located site has been purchased and fully paid for. Building plans are near completion. The total cost is estimated at \$300,000. Russian Orthodox churches throughout America are sharing in this project.

Mr. Dulles

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10-29-52

To encourage the Washington parish and these other parishes in this undertaking of faith and of great potential significance, a National Advisory Council is being formed among non-Orthodox Christians who, in a spirit of fellowship and goodwill, consent to this appointment. Responsibility will be limited to sponsorship, and to such counsel as individual members may be able to give if called upon.

Among those who have accepted appointment are: Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, Bishop of Washington; Rev. Dr. Samuel M. Cavert, General Secretary, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; Hon. William R. Castle, formerly Assistant Secretary of State; Rev. Dr. George M. Docherty, pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington.

It would greatly hearten us in our task if you could accept appointment to this Council.

Faithfully yours,

*+ Bishop Jonah.*

The Right Reverend Jonah,  
Bishop of Washington.

*Peter Zouboff*

Peter P. Zouboff, Ph.D.,  
Secretary, Board of Trustees.